

25X1A

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OX CART

COMOR-D-24/157
(CWG-D-10/2)

~~Estimated Monthly Requirement for OXCART
Reconnaissance of Cuba~~

1. At a special restricted session of the USIB on 16 September, the Chairman requested the COMOR to review our reconnaissance experience over Cuba last year to determine how many OXCART missions per month (in lieu of the U-2) would be required to satisfy our high-altitude photographic collection requirements in that area. Our conclusions are tentative in the absence of operational experience with the OXCART project and do not take into account vulnerability factors, which are the subject of another study in progress.

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Group 1
Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

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~~refueling~~. The U-2 can ~~spend more time over Cuba and can reverse~~
~~course~~ according to plan to overfly areas or objectives that require
coverage. U-2 response time is a matter of hours whereas the OXCART,
depending on maintenance status, may require as much as 7 to 10 days.

3. ~~Both OXCART and U-2 camera systems are limited in coverage~~
~~by weather~~. Large masses of cloud cover, which usually move over the
island from west to east, often obscure large parts of the land area.
Haze is a common problem during much of the year, and ~~cloud~~ buildup
precludes reconnaissance by early afternoon. Experience during 1963 - 64
has shown that there were periods when weather made it impossible to
fulfill USIB requirements even when missions were flown almost daily.
Weather is more likely to affect the success of the OXCART missions than
it does the U-2, since the latter has better maneuverability to take
advantage of predicted favorable weather.

4. ~~We believe~~ that the current USIB requirements, with the
exceptions noted below, can be satisfied by the number of OXCART
missions as specified in paragraph 5, provided maximum advantage is
taken of weather. Coverage of the Guantanamo area every two weeks

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can be accomplished by including it as a specific objective on each of two missions flown early in the month. These missions can also obtain considerable area coverage if one flight track follows the gentle arc of the northern half of the island and if the other acquires coverage of the Isle of Pines and the southern coastal areas. Accomplishing these missions early in the month affords the opportunity to evaluate mission success and to permit subsequent coverage of holidays while the second fortnightly coverage of Guantanamo is obtained. It is anticipated that these missions will also satisfy the 90% area coverage requirement as well as coverage of the highest priority targets

(see TAB A).

5. The tabulation below presents the number of OXCART missions we conclude are needed to fulfill these requirements. It neither provides for 2 missions per week to stimulate the Cuban air defense system nor for additional mission to obtain special coverage.

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Missions Required*</u>
November	4
December	3
January	3
February	3
March	3
April	4
May	6
June	6
July	6
August	6
September	5
October	4

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* This column is based on an analysis of climatological data (see TAB B) and our reconnaissance experience over Cuba during the past year.

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TAB A

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HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES FOR OXCART RECONNAISSANCE OF CUBA

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Pinar del Rio SAM Assembly Area
Siguanea Cruise Missile
Campo Florido Cruise Missile
Mayari Arriba Cruise Missile
Camilo Cienfuegos Airfield
Cienfuegos International Airfield
Holguin Airfield
San Antonio de los Baños Airfield
San Julian Airfield
Mariel Naval Base
Cabanas Naval Facility
Banes Naval Base
Cienfuegos Naval Base
Santiago de Cuba Naval Base
Neuvas Port
Matanzas Port
Havana Port
Bahia Honda Port
Guantanamo Area
Artemisa Military Camp
Holguin Military Camp
Remedios Military Camp
Alto Cedro Military Camp
Santiago de las Vegas Military Camp
Torrens Military Camp
Havana Military Camp Calabazar
Dos Caminos Military Training Area

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TAB B

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FROM SELECTED CUBAN WEATHER STATIONS

Weather Station	Days Per Month with 25% or Less Cloud Cover	
	Wet Season *	Dry Season **
Baracoa	9	11
Antilla	20	15
Punta Muisi	7	7
Muevitas	7	10
Camaguey	13	18
Guantanamo	8	18
San Julian	12	14
Havana	15	18
Cabo San Antonio	14	17
Nueva Gerona	12	14

* May - October

** November - April

NOTES: During dry season there are a few occasions when cloud cover blankets 50% to all of Cuba. This condition caused by a cold low persists for 10-14 days and will recur 60-90 days after dissipating.
Hurricane season occurs during August and September. Hurricanes last 5 days and are proceeded and followed by periods of good weather.

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